

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 851

Introduced by Assembly Member Nestande

February 17, 2011

An act to add and repeal Section 66942 of the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 851, as introduced, Nestande. Distance learning.

Existing law establishes the various segments of the public higher education system in the state. These segments include the University of California, which is administered by the Regents of the University of California, the California State University, which is administered by the Trustees of the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, which is administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

This bill would require the California State University and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and request the University of California to, report to the Legislature on workload and key performance data on distance learning courses, as defined. The bill would require the California Virtual Campus and the California State University to report to the Legislature on the California Online Program Planner project. The bill would require the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges and the California State University to report to the Legislature on the feasibility of developing an accelerated bachelors's degree completion program consisting of distance learning courses, aimed at students who started college but never obtained a degree. These provisions would be repealed on January 1, 2018.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 66942 is added to the Education Code,
2 to read:
3 66942. (a) As used in this section, “distance learning course”
4 means a course where a majority of the instruction is delivered by
5 the Internet, television, or other means in which the student and
6 instructor are in different locations and instruction is delivered
7 through the use of technology.
8 (b) (1) By January 1, 2014, and every two years thereafter, the
9 California State University and the Board of Governors of the
10 California Community Colleges shall, and the University of
11 California is requested to, report to the Legislature on workload
12 and key performance data on distance learning courses, including,
13 but not limited to, all of the following:
14 (A) The number of students enrolled in a distance learning
15 course at each campus, categorized by type of delivery method for
16 the distance learning course.
17 (B) Completion rates for distance learning courses.
18 (C) Program completion rates for degree programs that include
19 exclusively distance learning courses.
20 (2) Student enrollment and completion rate data included in a
21 report to be submitted pursuant to this subdivision shall be made
22 available by demographics such as age, gender, and ethnicity.
23 (c) By July 1, 2012, the California Virtual Campus and the
24 California State University shall report to the Legislature on the
25 California Online Program Planner project, which will provide
26 students, beginning with students in the San Francisco Bay area,
27 a single online source to enroll in distance learning courses and
28 will provide other collaborative efficiencies. An updated report
29 shall be provided on July 1, 2013.
30 (d) By January 1, 2013, the Board of Governors of the California
31 Community Colleges and the California State University shall
32 report to the Legislature on the feasibility of developing an
33 accelerated bachelor’s degree completion program consisting of
34 distance learning courses, aimed at students who started college
35 but never obtained a degree.

1 (e) (1) A report to be submitted pursuant to this section shall
2 be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
3 Code.

4 (2) Pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, this
5 section is repealed on January 1, 2018.